

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for verifying configuration changes for network devices using digital signatures are disclosed. In one approach, a method comprises the computer-implemented steps of receiving trust information defining one or more trusted signatories; receiving configuration information comprising a hostname, one or more configuration directives for a host associated with the hostname, and one or more digital signatures of the hostname and configuration directives; attempting to verify the one or more digital signatures based on the trust information; and applying the configuration directives to a network element only when the one or more digital signatures are verified successfully.